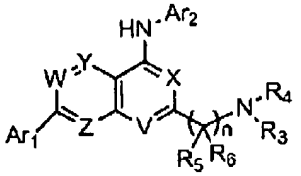
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-40. (Cancelled).

41. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof, wherein:

~~V, X, W, Y and Z are each independently N or CR_1, with the proviso that at least one of V and X is N;~~

V, X and Z are N;

W and Y are CR_1;

R_1 is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, haloC_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, haloC_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino;

R_3 and R_4 are:

(i) each independently selected from:

(a) hydrogen;

(b) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkanoyl, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, (C_6-C_{10}aryl)C_0-C_8alkyl, (5- to 10-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_8alkyl and -(SO_2)C_1-C_8alkyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b; and

(c) groups that are taken together with an R_5 or R_6 to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocycle that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b; or

(ii) taken together to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocycle that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b;

R_5 and R_6 are, independently at each occurrence:

(i) each independently hydrogen, C_1-C_8alkyl substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently chosen from R_b, or taken together with R_3 or R_4 to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocyclic group that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b;

(ii) taken together to form a keto group; or

(iii) taken together to form a 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently selected from 6- to 10-membered aryl groups and 5- to 10-membered heterocycles, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from groups of the formula LR_a;

L is independently selected at each occurrence from a bond, O, $S(O)_m$, C(=O), OC(=O), C(=O)O, O-C(=O)O, $N(R_x)$, C(=O)$N(R_x)$, $N(R_x)$C(=O), $N(R_x)S(O)_m$, $S(O)_mN(R_x)$ and $N[S(O)_mR_x]S(O)_m$; wherein m is independently selected at each occurrence from 0, 1 and 2; and R_x is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen and C_1-C_8alkyl;

R_a is independently selected at each occurrence from: (i) hydrogen, halogen, cyano and nitro; and (ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, (4- to 10-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_8alkyl and mono- and di-(C_1-C_8alkyl)amino, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, nitro, oxo, –COOH, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, haloC_1-C_4alkyl, haloC_1-C_4alkoxy, hydroxyC_1-C_4alkyl, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino; and

R_b is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, oxo and –COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-C_8alkyl, phenylC_0-C_8alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, -(SO_2)C_1-C_8alkyl and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)(C_0-C_8alkyl); each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, hydroxyC_1-C_4alkyl, haloC_1-C_4alkyl, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino.

42-45. (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein Z is N and W and Y are each CH.

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently selected from phenyl and 6-membered aromatic heterocycles, each of which is substituted with 0, 1 or 2 substituents.

49. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 48, wherein:

Ar_1 is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, haloC_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy and haloC_1-C_6alkoxy; and

Ar_2 is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, haloC_1-C_6alkyl, cyanoC_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, haloC_1-C_6alkoxy, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, C_1-C_6alkanoyl, $-(SO_2)R_d$, $-N(R_x)S(O)_mR_d$, and $-N[S(O_m)R_x]S(O)_mR_d$; wherein m is 1 or 2, R_x is hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl, and R_d is C_1-

C_6alkyl, haloC_1-C_6alkyl, amino, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino or a 5- to 10-membered, N-linked heterocyclic group, each of which R_d is substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, C_1-C_4alkyl, haloC_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy and haloC_1-C_4alkoxy.

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 49, wherein:

Ar_1 is pyridyl, unsubstituted or substituted with halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl or haloC_1-C_4alkyl; and

Ar_2 is phenyl or pyridyl, substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, cyanoC_1-C_4alkyl haloC_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_6alkyl ether and groups of the formula $-(SO_2)R_d$, wherein R_d is C_1-C_4alkyl or haloC_1-C_4alkyl.

51. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 49, wherein:

Ar_1 is phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted with halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl or haloC_1-C_4alkyl; and

Ar_2 is phenyl or pyridyl, substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, cyanoC_1-C_4alkyl haloC_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_6alkyl ether and groups of the formula $-(SO_2)R_d$, wherein R_d is C_1-C_4alkyl or haloC_1-C_4alkyl.

52. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 49, wherein:

Ar_1 is pyridin-2-yl, 3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl, 3-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl or 3-halo-pyridin-2-yl; and

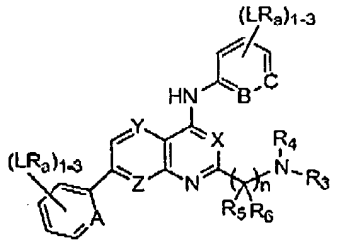
Ar_2 is phenyl, pyridin-2-yl or pyridin-3-yl, each of which is substituted at the *para*-position with halogen, cyano, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, *t*-butyl, trifluoromethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-methyl-ethyl, methanesulfonyl, ethanesulfonyl, propanesulfonyl, propane-2-sulfonyl, trifluoromethanesulfonyl or 2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonyl.

53. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 49, wherein:

Ar_1 is phenyl, 2-methyl-phenyl, 2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl or 2-halo-phenyl; and

Ar_2 is phenyl, pyridin-2-yl or pyridin-3-yl, each of which is substituted at the *para*-position with halogen, cyano, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, *t*-butyl, trifluoromethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-methyl-ethyl, methanesulfonyl, ethanesulfonyl, propanesulfonyl, propane-2-sulfonyl, trifluoromethanesulfonyl or 2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonyl.

54. (Currently Amended) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, having the formula:



wherein A, B, and C, ~~Y and Z~~ are each independently CH or N; Y is CH; Z is N, and wherein each "$(LR_a)_{1-3}$" represents from 1 to 3 substituents independently chosen from groups of the formula LR_a.

55. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from (i) hydrogen and (ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, (C_6-C_{10}aryl)C_0-C_8alkyl, (5- to 10-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_8alkyl and -(SO_2)C_1-C_8alkyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_b.

56. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 55, wherein R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from (i) hydrogen and (ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkyl, indanylC_0-C_4alkyl, (5- to

6-membered heteroaryl)C_0-C_4alkyl and (5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl)C_0-C_4alkyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, haloC_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy and haloC_1-C_6alkoxy.

57. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 56, wherein R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, indanyl, benzyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 1-phenyl-propyl and 2-phenyl-ethyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen and C_1-C_4alkyl, with the proviso that at least one of R_3 and R_4 is not hydrogen.

58. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein one of R_3 or R_4 is taken together with an R_5 or R_6 to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocyclic group that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, haloC_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, haloC_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkanoyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl and (4- to 10-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_8alkyl.

59. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein R_3 and R_4 are taken together to form a 4- to 10-membered heterocycle that is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, aminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkyl, hydroxyC_1-C_4alkyl, haloC_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, haloC_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkanoyl, C_2-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_8alkyl.

60. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 59, wherein the 4- to 10-membered heterocycle is morpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl or thiomorpholinyl.

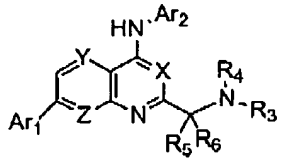
61. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein each R_5 and R_6 is independently selected from hydrogen and C_1-C_4alkyl.

62. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 61, wherein each R_5 and R_6 is hydrogen.

63. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein one R_5 and one R_6 attached to the same carbon atom are taken together to form a keto group.

64 (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein n is 1.

65. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, having the formula:



wherein:

Ar_1 is phenyl or pyridyl, unsubstituted or substituted with halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl or haloC_1-C_4alkyl;

Ar_2 is phenyl or pyridyl, unsubstituted or substituted with C_1-C_4alkyl, cyanoC_1-C_4alkyl, haloC_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_6alkyl ether or a group of the formula -$(SO_2)R_d$, wherein R_d is C_1-C_4alkyl or haloC_1-C_4alkyl;

R_3 and R_4 are:

(a) independently selected from:

(i) hydrogen; and

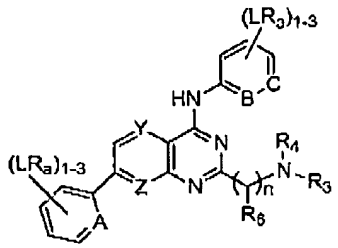
(ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, indanyl, benzyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 1-phenyl-propyl and 2-phenyl-ethyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents

independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and haloC_1-C_4alkyl; or

(b) taken together to form a 5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl that is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and haloC_1-C_4alkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from hydrogen and C_1-C_4alkyl.

66. (Currently Amended) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 65, having the formula:



wherein:

A, B, and C, ~~Y and Z~~ are each independently CH or N;

Y is CH;

Z is N;

R_3 and R_4 are:

(a) independently selected from:

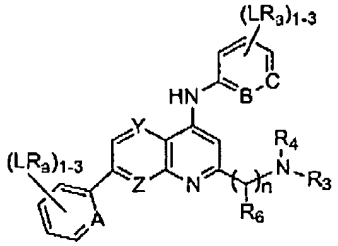
(i) hydrogen; and

(ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, indanyl, benzyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 1-phenyl-propyl and 2-phenyl-ethyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and haloC_1-C_4alkyl; or

(b) taken together to form a 5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl that is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and haloC_1-C_4alkyl; and

each R_6 is independently hydrogen or methyl.

67. (Currently Amended) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 65, having the formula:



wherein:

A, B, and C, ~~Y and Z~~ are each independently CH or N;

Y is CH;

Z is N;

R_3 and R_4 are:

(a) independently selected from:

(i) hydrogen; and

(ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, indanyl, benzyl, 1-phenyl-ethyl, 1-phenyl-propyl and 2-phenyl-ethyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and haloC_1-C_4alkyl; or

(b) taken together to form a 5- to 7-membered heterocycloalkyl that is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, cyano, halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and haloC_1-C_4alkyl; and

each R_6 is independently hydrogen or methyl.

68. (Cancelled).

69. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein the compound has an IC_{50} value of 100 nanomolar or less in a capsaicin receptor calcium mobilization assay.

70. (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, wherein the compound has an IC_{50} value of 10 nanomolar or less in a capsaicin receptor calcium mobilization assay.

71. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising at least one compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, in combination with a physiologically acceptable carrier or excipient.

72. (Original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 71 wherein the composition is formulated as an injectible fluid, an aerosol, a cream, a gel, a pill, a capsule, a syrup or a transdermal patch.

73-87. (Cancelled).

88. (Previously Presented) A method for treating pain in a patient, comprising administering to a patient suffering from pain a capsaicin receptor modulatory amount of at least one compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof according to claim 41, and thereby alleviating pain in the patient.

89. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 88, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof is present in the blood of the patient at a concentration of 1 micromolar or less.

90. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof is present in the blood of the patient at a concentration of 500 nanomolar or less.

91. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable form thereof is present in the blood of the patient at a concentration of 100 nanomolar or less.

92. (Original) A method according to claim 88, wherein the patient is suffering from neuropathic pain.

93. (Original) A method according to claim 88, wherein the pain is associated with a condition selected from: postmastectomy pain syndrome, stump pain, phantom limb pain, oral neuropathic pain, toothache, postherpetic neuralgia, diabetic neuropathy, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, trigeminal neuralgia, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, Guillain-Barre syndrome, meralgia paresthetica, burning-mouth syndrome, bilateral peripheral neuropathy, causalgia, neuritis, neuronitis, neuralgia, AIDS-related neuropathy, MS-related neuropathy, spinal cord injury-related pain, surgery-related pain, musculoskeletal pain, back pain, headache, migraine, angina, labor, hemorrhoids, dyspepsia, Charcot's pains, intestinal gas, menstruation, cancer, venom exposure, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease and trauma.

94. (Original). A method according to claim 88, wherein the patient is a human.

95-105. (Cancelled).